



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

FEBRUARY, 1989

FALL FORECAST '89

THE MOOD

URBAN FOLKLORE: or the contemporary hippie. New age mysticism meets the age of Aquarius with vibrant color, ornamental patterns and astrological or psychedelic motifs. Cross-cultural patterns and textures are layered, embroidered and bejeweled. Embellished peasantry have Indian and Moroccan inspirations while a rich Renaissance influence sports opulent textures and exaggerated collars. Gypsy, medieval and folkloric tendencies contribute to the neo-ethnic patchwork.

ROMANTIC SIMPLICITY: Taking their cue from English gentry, these designs enter the 90's with brighter colors, richer textures and precise ensembling. Men's suiting takes on a rakish charm with highly stylized trousers and tuxedo or Le Smoking influences. Poetic cape effects and lace or floral borders subtly contribute to the refined femininity. Riding habits, Chanel-inspired ensembles and haberdashery tweeds, checks and plaids complete the look.

THE SILHOUETTE

SHAPED: Definition without hugging the body; the waist is emphasized, softly wrapped or nipped midway with easy darts, tucks or gores—but not the body-conscious "hourglass".

A-LINE: Triangular shapes look new in fluid trapeze tops and swingy jackets. Shoulder pads have disappeared, occasionally replaced by exaggerated collars and novelty draping.

RECTANGLE: Boxier jackets meet straight skirts or full-cut trousers. Traditional balmacaans or steamer coats create this silhouette when worn over loose chemises, tunics and schoolgirl smocks.

THE LOOK

JACKETS: Collar treatments abound with exaggerated lapels, scarf ties, scalloping, pleating, waterfall and cape effects. (Vests, gilets and waistcoats become novelty separates or part of suiting.)

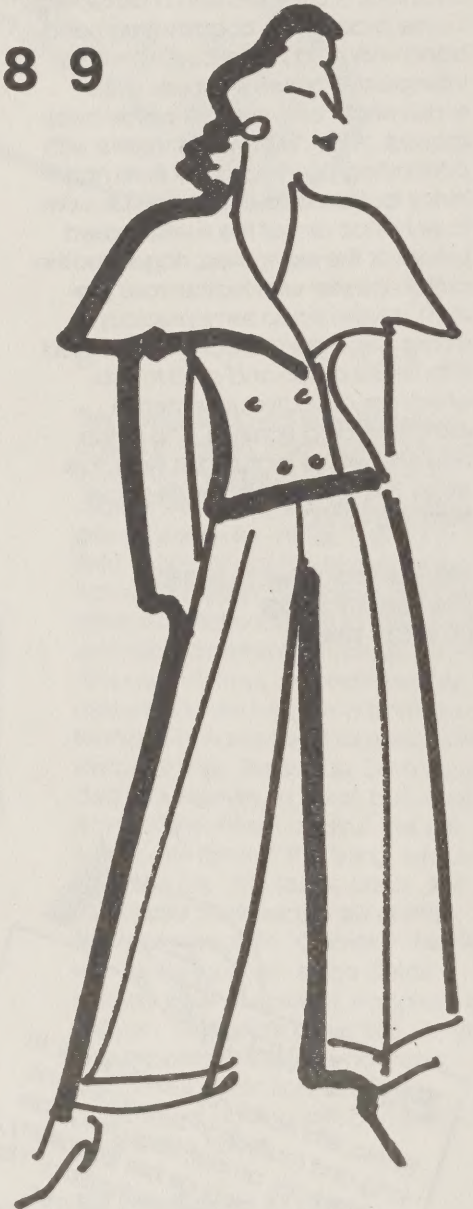
BLOUSES: Contrast lapels, cuff and bib treatments in starched whites or rich deeps. Self-colored soutache, embellished plackets, lace and embroidered edges. Manstyle seams, full-cut sleeves and fichu necklines, cravat, jabot and stock ties.

SKIRTS: Fuller shapes, short or long. Empire waists, cutaway hems, weskit treatments, braces and contrast banding. Gored panels, shirring, layering, pleats and pocket variations.

DRESSES: Country classics, Chanel looks, longer lengths for schoolgirl jumpers, pinafores, aprons and braces. Coatlresses are shorter and more defined. Empire, tunic-style and Grecian draping effects.

COATS: Classic redingotes, princess, trenches, and balmacaans. British greatcoats, reefers, capes. Longer collars, fuller sleeves. Clutch or wrap blanket, layered, padded, quilted and knitted.

PANTS: Exaggerated legs, cuffed trousers, fuller stirrups and jodphurs. Attached braces, novelty waistbands, and evening pajamas. Tuxedo-inspirations, bib attachments and high-rise waists.



GAIL RUGGIERO

For several years, Gail Ruggiero has been making custom-designed leather and leather embellished clothing. She now introduces a stunning collection of detailed evening jewelry and hair accessories for Fall 1989. Black suede is effectively accented with gold braiding, tassels and chains, self-roses and metal castings in the form of ribbons, bows, flowers and cherubim. Headbands are lined with grosgrain ribbon, while cuffs have leather interiors. Strips of suede are interwoven with gold chains, and adorned with a black rose in one bracelet. A coordinating headband with gold metal casting motifs interspersed between waves of flat snake chain is on a black suede background. A pin, with suede rosette with contrasting pewter leather flute and black bugle bead detail, can be worn to enhance any of the suede based pieces or the elongated, ridged leather cuff (in pewter with leather rose garnish). Multicolored semi-precious stones decorate a black cuff, trimmed with snake chain and gold tassels, which are delicately reflected in matching drop earrings. This stylish new line will be featured in New York stores this Spring. Wholesale prices from \$25 - \$100.

185 East 85th Street, Suite 26G
New York, NY 10028
(212) 534-1885



NANCY B. FRANK

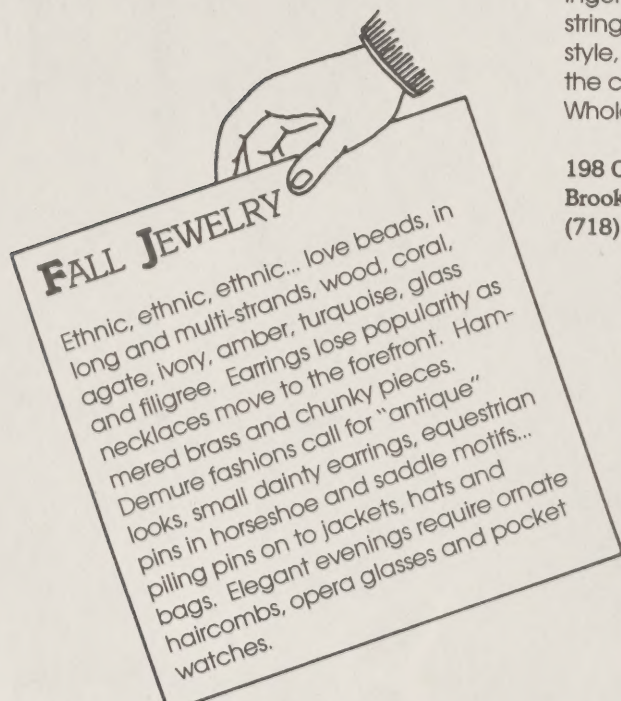
Here is a designer who has been commissioned to paint interiors in styles similar to the jewelry she decorates! Featured in Metropolis, the architectural and design magazine of New York, assignments have included faux marble work for a lawyer's office, and a mural depicting cherubs on a cluster of clouds for a boutique. Each piece of Frank's unique, hand-painted wooden jewelry is signed by the artist, and is finished in layers of high-gloss polyurethane. Cuffs, earrings and pins, in a myriad of chunky forms are painted to order. The designs are abstract, with exuberant compositions, ripe with brightly colored geometric and amorphous shapes. A particularly ingenuous and eye-catching motif is a string of pearls painted in trompe l'oeil style, that cascade, on both sides, over the cuff and earrings they embellish. Wholesale prices from \$15 - \$55.

198 Columbus Heights,
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 858-0192

SANDY BAKER

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this talented jewelry designer, whose abstract shapes are inspired by nature's organic forms. Until 3 years ago, Baker specialized in earring design, but responding to customer demand, she expanded her collection to include pins and necklaces. She describes her style as the "Cameo Focus," since it encompasses the "portrait" part of the body; she features delicate pieces in sterling silver and in 14 karat, and, most recently, 18 karat gold. From the Spring/Summer collection, "Willows" is a tribute to the tree of that name, with the gracefully bowed components of the necklace ingeniously hinged into a circlet of twiglets. The coordinating earrings are comprised of optional dangling strands, affixed to the back of the ears, transforming them into dramatic evening adornments. "Harmony," emulates the ripples created by pebbles dropped into a pool of water, with graduated circlets of 18 karat gold, which swirl over in a 3-dimensional effect, caressing the neck like a rope of golden bubbles. The look is completed with matching earrings and pin (with the possibility of a bracelet to come...a "first" for Sandy Baker). Another notable group includes the "Duke and Duchess" earrings, inspired by the music of Duke Ellington, these are large punctured discs with a cascade of smaller discs, reminiscent of his unique musical style. Wholesale prices from \$25 - \$400 for sterling silver and \$75 - \$1500 for 14Kt & 18Kt gold.

1140 Broadway,
New York, NY 10001



SIGNER FOCUS

ROBERTO VASCON

The life story of this remarkable young bag designer reads like an intriguing novel with a happy ending. Born in Brazil, he left school at 10 years of age to supplement the family income. At 12 he entered the Municipal Ballet, only to have his career as a dancer terminated by a mandatory period in the army. Upon his discharge he went to Rio de Janeiro where, after taking menial jobs to survive, he started to make and sell leather bags. One of these he presented to a woman who happened to give him a ride across town...she was none other than Iris Bruzzi, the renowned Brazilian actress. Soon he was creating handbags for other actresses, models, and an appreciative society crowd. He arrived in New York in 1985, and set up a stall at the Columbus Avenue Flea Market. So successful was this venture, that it enabled him to open a wholesale and retail store in New York's Greenwich Village this month! Described as a one-man Brazilian leather factory, Vascon carefully selects each hide, hand cuts it according to his own design, and stitches it into a handbag of distinctive style. Using cowhide, calfskin, snakeskin, eelskin and patent leather, from Switzerland, Italy and Argentina, he constructs geometrically inspired shapes, (from triangles and half-moons to rectangles, buckets and squares). Juxtaposing solid leathers with hand painted or embossed calfskin, he features briefcases and shoulder bags, the latter in mini 7" x 7" and 16" x 12" sizes. In one outstanding group (all with shoulder straps), the flap trimmed in cowhide, frames a contrasting panel in a variety of fabrications which is available in hand painted and printed designs; and in colors which veer from rich baroque hues to swirling pastel paisleys against black or white. Each one is issued in a limited edition with no more than 10 made of each design, and every one is a gem. Wholesale prices from \$15 - \$75.

150A West 10th Street
New York, NY 10003

FALL HANDBAGS:
sculpted, often angular. Structured, Toggle, clasp, ironwork trims, embroidery, chains, and tassels. Ethnic shoulder bags.



Roberto Vascon

KATE HINES

This designer of exquisite jewelry is based in Boston, and makes her first foray into the arena of neckwear design, with a limited yet beautiful group of scarves. Hines, trained in the field of fine arts at the Rhode Island School of Design, combines her love of fabrics, metal and print to make this extension a natural progression in her successful career. A suede kerchief, designed to be worn as a bandana, is featured in hand-dyed lambskin with viscose lining. The suede, Scotchguarded for longevity, in coral, buff or pink, is a subtle contrast against the soft watercolor floral of the lining, which looks like silk. Wholesale price: \$58. A 44" square in iridescent silk chiffon, evokes a romantic "Camelot" feeling with its metal chain edge-detail in dusty hues of epidote, eggplant and copper. Wholesale price: \$65. Hines is also experimenting with hats and belts in this collection, with the possibility of adding soft, unconstructed bags in the future.

385 Fifth Avenue, #1106
New York, NY
(212) 213-6690

SUMMER DRESSING: Clean & Simple

Summer fare stays classic and clean. The mood is uncomplicated. The big word is **easy**. Subtle sophistication, with fluid fabrics and simple lines, form wispy silhouettes. Silk reigns as the Summer favorite, while cotton, jersey and linen hold close seconds. Navy, black and white are most prevalent, with occasional earthy neutrals. Brights look best, primarily as solids and very South of the Border in red, orange and turquoise—hot, hot, hot.

THE DRESS

Two styles prevail: the sundress, generally short and bare, most often with a cross-back or cut-out interest, and the dance dress—longer, fuller, a la Betsey Johnson. DIANE BEAUDRY shows both in 100% silk broadcloth. Colors are fiesta yellow, rumba red, ole orange, Watusi white and mambo black. A color-blocked, linen tank dress in jade/turquoise/lime is at MISS O by OSCAR DE LA RENTA. For the dress collection, DIANE VON FURSTENBERG puts a criss-cross back on a slim-fitting coatdress.

THE ALL-IN-ONE

Jumpsuits and rompers become part of the game. A large polka dot print silk halter jumpsuit with full legged pants is at MICHAEL KATZ RTW. PATRICIA CLYNE creates a sultry tank jumpsuit in rayon ribbed matte jersey with medium palazzo pant. MICHAEL KORS covers up with a long-sleeved, button-down, white cotton romper with stand-up collar. And GORDON HENDERSON, with a black & white cotton romper, pairs vertical with horizontal stripes.

PANTS

Pants may prove to be more popular than skirts. There are certainly more varieties. JENNIFER GEORGE shows them long and narrow, or cropped and full cotton interlock knit in red, turquoise, chocolate, black or white. CARMELO POMODORO prefers 2-ply sand-washed silk for his soft elastic waist pant in salmon or aqua. A draped wrap waist lightweight viscose jersey at NICOLE FARHI, in red, gold, mauve, ecru or black.

SUMMER EYEWEAR

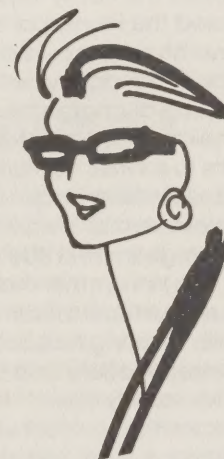
With RTW touting simplicity, retailers expect another major boom for the accessory market. As for Summer '89, focus turns to eyewear. A 30-40% growth is expected in sales this year by sunglass manufacturers. With an influx of designer labels, and an increase in brand awareness, consumers are becoming quite conscious of the image portrayed at the bridge of their nose.

If only lifestyles could be changed as easily as a pair of glasses. Sunglasses are known to be used for a variety of reasons: accent an outfit, emulate a favorite person, create a mood of mystery or remain incognito. But the days are gone when large round frames were kept in the glove compartment and taken out only for driving.

Three basic looks prevail in the sunglass department. The first is very retro: shapes that bring back the 50's and 60's. Ray-Ban's Wayfarer by Bausch & Lomb, originally introduced in 1957, enjoys a resurgence, especially since Tom Cruise wore them in the film Risky Business. Another classic appeal comes from the late 60's, early 70's, with the round-framed "granny glasses." Evoking images of John Lennon, this design is popular in plastic as well as metal frames. Jean Paul Gaultier offers a variety of round frames at Optical Affairs.

The Second "look" implies intelligence. Rimless glasses with tortoise browbars and side screws are reminiscent of the class nerd. Riviera calls their version "the nerd," with a gold or silver nose piece, metal rimmed bottom and heavy browbar. Clip on adjustments that snap up or down are at Quest Eyewear. Bottle-neck glasses with thick plastic frames are quite studious (think of Miss Jane from the Beverly Hillsbillies). Christian Lacroix's new collection looks similar.

The third is modern, almost futuristic. This look can be achieved in a variety of ways. Bright colors, alone or in combinations—red/purple, yellow/orange, blue/green, are at Alain Mikli. Sanford-Hutton at Color in Optics creates angular frames with wide temples. Using metal in a very mechanical or industrial theme comes from Marithe & Francois Girbaud. Round, flat lenses reflect the light in a rectangular frame at Renaissance.



Giorgio Armani, Daniel Hechter and Ellen Tracy are just a few of the others who have done more than "peep" into this lucrative business. "It's no longer one pair for all occasions in the mind of the consumer" says Alan Ritter, President of the Vision Industry Council of America. That message is already becoming quite clear.

Shady note: The members of the Sunglass Association of America (SAA) have honored Greg Louganis with the Shady Personality Award of 1988. Given to individuals who have helped popularize sunglasses, past honorees include Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Greta Garbo, Jack Nicholson, Elton John, Diane Keaton and General Douglas MacArthur.

Publisher: Ruth Finley, Fashion Calendar/International

Editors: Deborah Brumfield & Maria Carzis

Contributors: Bridget Biggane, NY

Debby de Montfort, NY

Elizabeth Garcia, NY

Lee Slaughter, NY/PARIS

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153 East 87th Street, New York, NY 10128 • (212) 289-0420